

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 115

Recognizing the historical significance of the Triangle Fire and honoring its victims on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of the tragic event.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of the Triangle Fire and honoring its victims on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of the tragic event.

Whereas on March 25, 1911, a fire, commonly referred to as the Triangle Fire, broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory, located on the top floors of the Asch Building on the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place in New York City;

Whereas the fire swept through the top 3 stories of the building in only ½ hour;

Whereas 146 of the 600 Triangle factory employees died in the tragic fire;

Whereas many of the Triangle factory workers were women, some as young as 15 years old;

Whereas most of the workers were recent European Jewish or Italian immigrants who had come to the United States with their families to seek a better life;

Whereas fire inspections and precautions at the time were woefully inadequate;

Whereas the Triangle factory had never conducted a fire drill and had locked doors, poor sanitation, and crowding;

Whereas in the wake of this tragedy, people throughout the Nation demanded restitution, justice, and action that would safeguard the vulnerable and oppressed, and there were massive protests by people angry at the lack of concern and the greed that had made the Triangle fire possible;

Whereas during the next 20 years, there was a substantial effort to alleviate the most dangerous aspects of sweatshop manufacturing in New York and throughout the Nation;

Whereas the labor movement and progressive organizations fought a long and difficult battle to secure the right of workers to safe, decent working conditions;

Whereas the last survivor of the factory blaze, Rose Freedman, passed away on February 17, 2001, at the age of 107;

Whereas although the public outrage resulting from the Triangle Fire eventually faded, the fire was not forgotten nor was it the only such event in the history of American workers; and

Whereas the Triangle Fire brought attention to the many serious problems facing factory workers and paved the way for worker protection laws: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress, on the occasion of the 92nd
4 anniversary of the fire that occurred at the Triangle
5 Shirtwaist Company factory, commonly referred to
6 as the Triangle Fire—

7 (A) honors the victims of the Triangle
8 Fire;

9 (B) recognizes the historical significance of
10 the Triangle Fire in the struggle for worker
11 safety standards and protections;

12 (C) commends all the government agencies,
13 labor unions, and industry groups that at-
14 tempted to aid the victims of the Triangle Fire
15 and played instrumental parts in facilitating
16 lasting improvement in worker safety standards
17 and protections; and

18 (D) acknowledges that work site fires and
19 other hazards continue to be a problem; and

20 (2) it is the sense of the Congress that the Fed-
21 eral Government should take all appropriate meas-
22 ures to enforce safety regulations prompted by the
23 Triangle Fire.

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